

Name _____

Date _____

Sample Book Report

The Bad Beginning: A Terrible Tale ☐

The writer's title includes the name of the book he or she is reviewing.

The writer engages the reader with a question.

Do you enjoy happy endings? If so, *The Bad Beginning* by Lemony Snicket is a book you'll want to avoid. This is a story with a bad beginning, a bad middle and a bad ending. Why would anyone want to read such a thoroughly bad book? It's all in good fun!

The writer includes the title and author of the book in the introduction.

The writer provides a brief summary of the plot.

The Bad Beginning is a story about the suffering of three orphaned siblings at the hands of their uncle, Count Olaf. Although Violet, Klaus and Sunny are the inheritors of an enormous fortune, they cannot claim the money until they are older. For now, they must live with Olaf and cook and clean for him and his terrible theater friends. Why would such a cruel character take in three orphans? He wants to steal their fortune, of course.

The writer includes details about a problem the characters face.

The writer states his or her opinion about the book.

I can't tell you how the story ends, but I can tell you what I enjoyed most about the book. Snicket makes his readers laugh and want to continue reading, even in the most terrible situations. For example, he constantly warns his reader to put down the book because nothing good could possibly come of the orphans' unfortunate situation. He writes: "It is my sad duty to write down these unpleasant tales, but there is nothing stopping you from putting this book down at once..." Of course, Snicket's warnings only made me even more curious to find out what would become of the siblings in the end.

The writer provides examples from the book to support his or her opinion.

The writer gives reasons to explain why he or she recommends the book.

Will Olaf's evil plot win out? Or will these three crafty kids outwit him? If you're not afraid of a little misery and a whole lot of mischief, then I recommend you read *The Bad Beginning* and find out for yourself.

The writer recommends the book.